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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INITIATION OF A SISTER STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF HAWAII AND THE PREFECTURE OF HOKKAIDO, JAPAN, AND FORWARD ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE LEGISLATURE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 229-3, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, FOR FURTHER ACTION.

1 WHEREAS, due to its multicultural population since the days  
2 of the Hawaiian monarchy in the early 20th century, Hawaii  
3 maintains a heritage of international participation and cultural  
4 sensitivity unparalleled in other states; and

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6 WHEREAS, since 1981, the Legislature has instituted sister  
7 state relationships as a means of asserting the State's active  
8 participation in international matters; and

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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii currently maintains sixteen sister state  
11 relationships, including relationships with four Japan  
12 prefectures; and

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14 WHEREAS, Hokkaido is Japan's largest and northernmost  
15 prefecture and an important generator of tourism in Hawaii; and

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17 WHEREAS, Hokkaido's well-known wintertime and year-round  
18 recreational activities, along with cultural ties, attract many  
19 travelers from Hawaii; and

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21 WHEREAS, a relationship between Hawaii and Hokkaido will be  
22 highly beneficial in expanding tourism, strengthening cultural  
23 bonds, and advancing common goals of international peace and  
24 brotherhood; now, therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the  
28 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Sister-



1 State Committee is requested to evaluate and develop  
2 recommendations for the initiation of a sister-state  
3 relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Prefecture of  
4 Hokkaido, Japan; and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Sister-State  
7 Committee report its findings and recommendation, including  
8 proposed legislation, relative to initiating a sister-state  
9 relationship between Hawaii and the Prefecture of Hokkaido,  
10 Japan, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
11 convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States  
15 Secretary of State; Ambassador of the Embassy of Japan in  
16 Washington, D.C.; Governor of the Prefecture of Hokkaido, Japan;  
17 Consul General of Japan in Hawaii; Governor of the State of  
18 Hawaii; and the Chairperson of the Hawaii Sister-State  
19 Committee.  
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